Message Text

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAGR, EEC

SUBJECT: SOYBEAN GUIDE PRICE 1975/76 MARKETING YEAR

REF: (A) STATE 028001 (B) EC BRUSSELS 9618 (C) EC BRUSSELS 001152 (D) EC BRUSSELS 01275

- 1. SUMMARY. THE MISSION HAS CONVEYED TO THE COMMISSION THE POINTS CONTAINED IN REFTEL A, AS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE FIRST DISCUSSION REPORTED IN REFTEL C, ABOUT THE DANGERS OF HIGH GUIDELINE PRICES FOR SOYBEANS. COMMISSION OFFICIALS SAID THEY WOULD GIVE OUR MESSAGE TO THEIR SUPERIORS BUT DOUBTED THAT THE PROPOSED INCREASE IN SOYBEAN GUIDE PRICES PER SE WOULD AFFECT US EXPORTS. END SUMMARY.
- 2. MISSION OFFICER MET ON FEB. 12 WITH SCHIRATTI, EC COMMISSION OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF OILSEEDS, TO DISCUSS THE SOYBEAN GUIDE PRICES. OUR MEETING TOOK PLACE PRIOR TO THE EC COUNCIL DECISION ON THE 1975/76 AGRICULTURAL PRICES---WHICH APPROVED THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL FOR THE SOYBEAN GUIDE PRICE INCREASE (REFTEL D).

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3. IN OUR DISCUSSION WITH SCHIRATTI WE REVIEWED THE IMPLICATIONS

OF A 12 PERCENT INCREASE IN THE GUIDE PRICES. WE EXPLAINED TO SCHIRATTI US CONCERNS OVER A HIGH GUIDELINE PRICE IN THE FACE OF LOW WORLD MARKET PRICES.

- 4. SCHIRATTI NOTED WITHOUT COMMENT OUR CONCERNS OVER POSSIBLE IMPAIRMENT OF THE US BINDING. HE SIAD HE WOULD REPORT THIS, AS WELL AS OUR PREVIOUS CONVERSATION (REFTEL C), TO FRANKLIN, COMMISSION DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE, WHO WAS AT THAT TIME TIED UP WITH THE COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS.
- 5. SCHIRATTI WENT ON TO STATE THAT THE SOYBEAN PRICE MUST REMAIN WITHIN THE RANGE SET BY THE PRICES FOR RAPESEED AND SUNFLOWERSEED. THIS IS IN KEEPING WITH THE COMMISSION'S GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINING THE SOYBEAN SUPPORT PRICE LEVEL. THEREFORE, THE INCREASED PROPOSED BY THE COMMISSION FOR ALL THREE PRICES AIMED AT MAINTAINING THAT RELATIONSHIP.

6. IN HIS VIEW, THE 12 PERCENT INCREASE IN THE SOYBEAN GUIDE PRICES HOULD HAVE NO EFFECT PER SE ON U.S. EXPORTS TO THE COMMUNITY. BUT HE DID NOT DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY OF A DECLINE IN U.S. SOYBEAN EXPORTS TO THE COMMUNITY IN 1975/76 DUE TO EXPECTED REDUCED EC DEMAND FOR PORK AND POULTRY MEAT. HE SAID IT WOULD BE UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT THAT THE U.S. COULD MAINTAIN IN 1975/76 THE UNUSUALLY HIGH LEVEL OF ITS SOYBEAN EXPORTS IN 1974/75. SCHIRATTI SUPPLIED THE FOLLOWING DATA ON CRUSHINGS WHICH. FOR SOYBEANS, ARE TANTAMOUNT TO IMPORTS:

FIRST FIRST

PERCENT SEMESTER SEMESTER PERCENT

1972 1973 CHANGE 1973 1974 CHANGE

(-----)

RAPESEED 1,439 1,434 - 566 480 -15.19

SOYBEAN 6,251 7,001 PLUS 3,582 4,699 PLUS

12.00 31.18

SUNFLOWER 228 247 PLUS 157 164 PLUS

SEED 833 4.46

7. SCHIRATTI SAID THAT SOYBEANS NOW ARE BEING OFFERED AT MUCH LOWER PRICES THAN THEY WERE LAST YEAR, AND THEY ARE REPLACING A SIGNIFICANT QUANTITY OF GRAINS IN COMPOUND FEEDS. THE SOYBEAN /CORN PRICE RELATIONSHIP IS NOW ABOUT THE SAME AS IT WAS TWO YEARS AGO, HE SAID. IN HIS VIEW, SOYBEAN OIL PRICES WILL DECLINE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN THE SHORT TO MEDIUM TERM FUTURE. ON THE OTHER HAND, PRICES FOR CAKE ARE PROBABLY AT THEIR LOW POINT (\$145-\$150 PER MT C.I.F. ROTTERDAM) AND HE EXPECTS THEM TO INCREASE.GREENWALD

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